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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,003	06/07/2006	Nobuo Suzuki	128190	8845
25944 7590 04/25/2008 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
PRINCE, FRED G				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1797				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/582,003

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

FRED PRINCE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0606,0607
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 11-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graus et al. (US Pat No 6,427,846).

Graus et al. teach a filter element made of resin (5), a container made of resin (2), the container comprising a "container body" (4) and a "cover" (3), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (abstract; col. 2, lines 39-51) such that a portion of the container is embedded in the filter.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenberg (US Pat No 3,815,754).

Rosenberg teaches a filter element made of resin (10; col. 3, lines 60-65), a container made of resin (1), the container comprising a "container body" (3) and a "cover" (2), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (1) such that a portion of the container is embedded in the filter (col. 3, lines 31-55).

4. Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsushita (JP 5-49967).

Matsushita teaches a filter element made of resin (17), a container made of resin (Fig. 1), the container comprising a "container body" (12) and a "cover" (14), wherein the filter

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element is joined to the container (Fig. 1) such that a portion of the container is embedded in the filter (Fig. 1).

5. Claims 1-4, 10-11 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masatomo (JP 9-206518).

Masatomo teaches a filter element made of resin (23), a container made of resin (), the container comprising a "container body" (12) and a "cover" (11), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (abstract; Fig. 1; [0017]) such that a portion of the container is embedded in the filter.

6. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keizo (JP 2002-273110).

Keizo teaches a filter element made of resin (6; [0019]), a container made of resin (7; [0017]), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (Fig.1).

7. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. (WO 00/44485).

Cheng et al. teach a filter element made of resin (abstract), a container made of resin (abstract), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (pg.11; pp.12-13).

8. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 11-12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakoshi et al. (EP 0787519).

Murakoshi teaches a filter element made of resin (20), a container made of resin (11,12), wherein the filter element is joined to the container (col. 5, lines 39-57; col. 7, lines 29-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the primary references in view of Fritz (US 2002/0017497).

The primary references are described above. None of the primary references explicitly discloses hot plate welding.

In any case, Fritz discloses the well known concept of utilizing hot plate welding on a resin filter in order to, for example, minimize leaks ([0005]).

Accordingly, it would have been readily obvious for the skilled artisan to modify the device any one of the primary references such hot plate welding is utilized in order to, for example, minimize leaks.

11. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the primary references.

None of the primary references teaches a groove on the inner wall receiving melted resin from the welded part.

It is submitted that it is well within the purview of the skilled artisan to provide a groove on a container in order to form a strong male/female bond with molten material.

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Accordingly, it is the examiner's opinion that it would have been readily obvious for the skilled artisan to modify the device of any one of the primary such that the device includes a groove on the inner wall receiving melted resin from the welded part longitudinal direction so that the melted resin squeezed out from the welded part is received in the groove in order to, for example, form a strong male/female bond with molten material.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PRINCE whose telephone number is (571)272-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00; alt. Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Fred Prince/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

fgp
4/24/08